



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 2006

| Location | Date | Time Local/ Standard | Path Length (Miles) | Path Width (Yards) | Number of Persons Killed | Number of Persons Injured | Estimated Damage Property | Estimated Damage Crops | Character of Storm |
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
|----------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|

TEXAS, North

TXZ091>095-100>107-115>123-129>135-141>148-156>162-174>175 Montague - Cooke - Grayson - Fannin - Lamar - Young - Jack - Wise - Denton - Collin - Hunt - Delta - Hopkins - Stephens - Palo Pinto - Parker - Tarrant - Dallas - Rockwall - Kaufman - Van Zandt - Rains - Eastland - Erath - Hood - Somervell - Johnson - Ellis - Henderson - Comanche - Mills - Hamilton - Bosque - Hill - Navarro - Freestone - Anderson - Lampasas - Coryell - Bell - McLennan - Falls - Limestone - Leon - Milam - Robertson

01 0000CST 0 0 1B Drought
31 2359CST

Drought conditions continued across north Texas as precipitation deficits increased. This month, all of north Texas was classified in either extreme drought (D3) or exceptional drought (D4) as classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Every county in north Texas was eligible for federal disaster relief due to the drought. The weather continued to be unseasonable warm. The average high temperature this January was 68.3 degrees, a full 14.2 degrees above normal. This figure broke an 83-year-old record.

Wildfires continued to be a major problem in January, with a burn ban in place in every county. A quarter of a million acres burned across Texas in the first half of the month, more than during all of 2005. The ongoing drought combined with strong winds and low humidities to create a volatile fire situation in Texas. On New Year's Day, several devastating wildfires erupted across north Texas. Forty homes were destroyed in Montague County as a 17-mile long fire burned between Ringgold and Nocona. Another grass fire in Johnson County burned 13 buildings and charred 1,800 acres. In Eastland County, a fire encompassing more than 35,000 acres forced the evacuations of several communities and destroyed the city of Kokomo. Thirty-six buildings were lost in the fire. Several firefighters and civilians suffered burns, smoke inhalation, and heat exhaustion due to the fires.

Hydrological and agricultural impacts worsened over the past month due to the lack of rainfall. Most water reservoirs across north Texas were 60% to 85% of normal capacity. Several lakes across the region were 10 to 15 feet below normal pool elevation. The North Texas Municipal Water District implemented watering restrictions earlier than normal this year due to the lowering lake levels. Watering restrictions were also in effect on a voluntary basis in some cities.

The Texas Cooperative Extension estimated agricultural losses for north Texas to be close to \$1 billion in January. Only half of the state's hay crop was fit for harvesting, and hay prices were three to four times their normal price. Many other crops failed to grow at all. Agricultural groups appealed for federal grants to aid the cattle industry. One emergency measure considered by the federal government included providing cash to ranchers to offset high feed costs and losses due to the drought and wildfires. A drought summit was held in San Antonio to discuss the crisis.

The drought was also affecting wildlife in north Texas. The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife reported an overall decline in habitat conditions, and noted that the lack of green plants would affect the survival rate of certain animals.

TXZ091-116-129

Montague - Palo Pinto - Eastland

01 1500CST 0 6 10.8M Wildfire
02 1200CST

Several devastating wild fires erupted across north Texas due to low humidities, strong winds, and the ongoing drought. In Montague County, a 17-mile long fire burned between Ringgold and Nocona, destroying forty homes. Two firefighters and two civilians were injured. A grass fire which began in Palo Pinto County near the Mineral Wells Airport burned 13 structures, including 5 homes. The fire grew to cover 1,800 acres. One firefighter suffered second-degree burns and another smoke inhalation. A grass fire burned more than 35,000 acres in the southeastern part of Eastland county and forced evacuations of the nearby towns of Carbon, Gorman, and Desdemona. The community of Kokomo essentially burned to the ground. Thirty-six buildings, including



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| | | | | | Killed | Injured | Property | Crops | |

TEXAS, North

homes, were destroyed. Numerous livestock were lost in the fire. The fire was 35 miles long

TXZ130

Erath

02

**1400CST
1800CST**

0

0

750K

Wildfire

A grass fire destroyed 6 houses in the town of Huckabay.

TXZ102

Wise

03

**1600CST
2330CST**

0

0

80K

Wildfire

A grass fire started near Boonsville, burning 5,000 acres and 6 non-residential structures.

TXZ105-117

Hunt - Parker

05

**1600CST
2300CST**

0

0

138K

Wildfire

A grass fire in Hunt County destroyed one home and burned 300 acres.

TXZ101

Jack

13

**0830CST
1300CST**

0

0

Wildfire

At least four thousand acres burned in Jack county due to a grass fire. No buildings were reportedly damaged

TXZ107

Hopkins

19

0930CST

0

0

10K

Strong Wind (ES40)

A carport and a roof were blown off two buildings in Como.

TXZ129

Eastland

27

**1345CST
1530CST**

0

0

50K

Wildfire

Two grass fires broke out on State Highway 6 south of Eastland. 75 acres were burned, and a vacant house was damaged in the fires.